

October 4, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BEND

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday, October 22, 2002, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 20615 Grandview Drive, Bend, Oregon 97701.

Matters to be addressed at the meeting include cooperative management agreements, transportation, law enforcement, the Redband Trout Reserve, the Stonehouse Environmental Assessment and prescribed burn, and wildlife issues. Other topics scheduled include a recreation update regarding visitor use, limits of acceptable change/settings ("zones of use"), special recreation permits, rest area concept, a new Steens Mountain brochure; a briefing of the status of the Andrews/Steens Mountain Resource Management Plan; a Designated Federal Official update, and other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC. The SMAC will also set agenda items for the December meeting, update action items and recommendations, and discuss the facilitator position.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled at 11:00 a.m. each day. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker will address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes. Information to be distributed to SMAC members should be sent to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, no later than 10 days prior to the start of the meeting.

Pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, the SMAC was established to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the boundary of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

Members on the 12-person SMAC represent the following categories of constituents:

- No Financial Interest
- Grazing Permittee
- Environmental Representative-Local
- Wild Horse Management
- Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Fish and Recreational Fishing
- State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)
- Environmental Representative-State
- Dispersed Recreation
- Grazing Permittee
- Recreation Permit Holder
- Private Landowner

The Designated Federal Official is Thomas Dyer, Burns District Manager.

For more information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also check the SMAC Web Site at <www.or.blm.gov/Steens/smac/smac_index.htm>